

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KABUL 07988 310943Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
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R 310640Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9948

UNCLAS KABUL 7988

NEA/PAB ONLY, AUSTRIAN FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS

1. DEPARTMENT'S A-4662 OF SEPTEMBER 21, 1976, GIVES INSTRUCTIONS ON REPLACEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. THE WAY WE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH THE PASSPORT OFFICE WANTS TO HAVE PEOPLE OVERSEAS SEND THEIR OLD PASSPORTS IN WITH AN APPLICATION, AND THEN THE PASSPORTS WOULD BE REPLACED. I GATHER THERE IS AN EXCEPTION PROCEDURE, BUT IF OUR READING IS CORRECT, I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE HERE WITHOUT PASSPORTS FOR MOST OF OUR PEOPLE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. AS YOU KNOW, POUCH SERVICE BETWEEN HERE AND THE DEPARTMENT IS SHAKY AT BEST AND DURING THE WINTER MONTHS WHEN THE REPLACEMENT EXERCISE IS SCHEDULED, WE HAVE DELAYS IN POUCH MAIL OWING TO PLANE SCHEDULE DISRUPTION WHICH CAN EXTEND UP TO 4 - 6 WEEKS.

2. OUR CONSUL, BRUCE BEARDSLEY, HAS SENT A MEMORANDUM DATED OCTOBER 18 ASKING FOR AN EXCEPTION FOR KABUL. WHAT WE ARE ASKING IS THAT ALL DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT HOLDERS HERE BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEIR PASSPORTS UNTIL THE REPLACEMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

3. I WILL BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL KEEP AN EYE ON THIS AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANY PROBLEMS COMING DOWN THE PIKE.

4. BEST REGARDS.
CURRAN

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